



September 27, 2005

# Disaster News

## **FEMA Approves Nearly \$2.7 Million Baldwin County Debris Cleanup**

**MONTGOMERY, AL.** —The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced its approval of \$2.69 million in expected reimbursement costs for Hurricane Katrina debris removal along 1,500 miles of public roads in Baldwin County.

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program will provide 100 percent of the \$ 2,698,109 project funding for county-wide debris removal from public rights-of-way in the county completed by Oct. 27. Funding for any PA debris removal after that date will revert to the standard 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal cost-share arrangement for debris removal and emergency protective measures.

The funding is intended to remove a significant portion of the financial burden of the cumulative storms on local government finances as well as to make the area better able to withstand the impact of any future storms during this hurricane season.

Work has already begun in the county to remove tree and vegetative debris caused by a tidal surge that swept over coastal areas of the county along with high winds that resulted in extensive countywide damage. PA specialists estimate that over 212,000 cubic yards of disaster-related debris qualifies for removal.

Collected debris will be removed to two county landfills used for a similar purpose following Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages the federal response and recovery efforts following an incident of national significance. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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